Hysteria

Revision as of 00:54, 13 March 2022 by Libraryclerk0191 (talk | contribs)
(diff) ← Older revision | Latest revision (diff) | Newer revision → (diff)

Hysteria is a term used colloquially to mean ungovernable emotional excess and can refer to a temporary state of mind or emotion.

It is part of the general pattern of misguided policy that our country is now geared to an arms economy which was bred in an artificially induced psychosis of war hysteria and nurtured upon an incessant propaganda of fear.
While such an economy may produce a sense of seeming prosperity for the moment, it rests on an illusionary foundation of complete unreliability and renders among our political leaders almost a greater fear of peace than is their fear of war. ~ Douglas MacArthur

Quotes

- Daffies Of Defense... Making the Home Front Safe for Hysterics!
  - Air Raid Wardens (1943)
- Suddenly the men of Troop G pause and wheel around, rifles upraised.... At least ten guardsmen fire fifty-five rifle bursts, five pistol shots, and a shotgun blast at students over a hundred yards away in the parking lot. When echoes of the fusillade fade away, thirteen bodies are sprawled on the ground. Nine students are wounded... Seven have bullets in their sides and four in their backs, proving they were not advancing but fleeing.... One young guardsman is horrified by the spectacle. **Falling to the ground and tossing hysterically, he cries out, "I just shot two teenagers!" The other guardsmen march off... leaving the dead and wounded behind.**
  - Jules Archer on the Kent State shootings, "Kent State—the Tragedy that Shook the Nation," (http://alexpeak.com/twr/kstttstn/) chapter one of *The Incredible Sixties: The Stormy Years that Changed America* (San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1986), pp. 2–3
- hysteria (noun) extreme fear, excitement, anger, etc. that cannot be controlled: Tabloid hysteria... has increased public fears.
  - Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary (https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/hysteria), *Cambridge University Press*, 2022
- hysterical (adjective) unable to control your feelings or behavior because you are extremely frightened, angry, excited, etc.:
  - Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary (https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/hysterical), *Cambridge University Press*, 2022
- What we have now, under our Imperial monsters, hysterics, and psychos, is a regime that, having destroyed weak countries, provokes the strongest; having failed in every single war it forced down our throats, aspires to fight new ones; having vilified and demonized the most powerful national leaders on earth by imbecile accusations spun of fevered imagination and fairy dust, it proposes to punish them for imaginary transgressions.
  The question for us is, when does this hysteria become treason? At what point of our shame is open

rebellion the only choice? If not now, when? Hysterics are jumpy and can manage emotions only by ignoring external emotional stimuli (denial) or by psychologically fleeing from internal emotional stimuli (repression)... To hysterics, everything is up-close and personal; obsessives look at the world as if through the wrong end of a telescope. ~ Michael Karson]]

- When is Hysteria Treason?, by Paul Edwards, *CounterPunch*, April 12, 2018

The hysteria over Ukraine with U.S. officials and editorialists now trying to rally a NATO military response to Russia's alleged "invasion" of Ukraine raises the prospect of a nuclear confrontation that could end all life on the planet. ~ Robert Parry (https://consortiumnews.com/2021/12/08/robert-parry-whos-telling-the-big-lie-on-ukraine/)

- An important personality variable has to do with emotionality, the likeliness of a person in an emotional situation to behave emotionally and with what intensity. Bullough (1913) noticed that some people react to theater as if it is really happening while others react as if it has nothing to do with them; he called these underdistancers and overdistancers.
  Freud had already described **hysterics** as people who in a sense are underdistanced with respect to their own emotions and unpleasant thoughts. Emotionality used to be called in clinical psychology the obsessive compulsive-hysterical continuum.
  Hysterics are jumpy and can manage emotions only by ignoring external emotional stimuli (denial) or by psychologically fleeing from internal emotional stimuli (repression)... To hysterics, everything is up-close and personal.
  - Managing Emotions: Mindfulness, Impulsivity, and Goldilocks, Michael Karson, *Psychology Today* (https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/feeling-our-way/201607/managing-emotions-mindfulness-impulsivity-and-goldilocks), July 6, 2016

Freud had already described **hysterics** as people who in a sense are underdistanced with respect to their own emotions and unpleasant thoughts. Emotionality used to be called in clinical psychology the obsessive compulsive-hysterical continuum. ~ Michael Karson

- No outsider can imagine the stupidity, blustering hysteria, authoritarianism, and paralyzing boredom of shooting a flick for Billy Wilder. The so-called "actors" are simply trained poodles who sit up on their hind legs and jump through hoops. I thought the insanity would never stop.
  - Klaus Kinski, in *Kinski Uncut : The Autobiography of Klaus Kinski* (1996), p. 299
- To parents with fearful and controlling tendencies, the world is full of danger. They are hypervigilant, and always living on the border of paranoia. They are constantly scanning the environment for threat signals, and see the worst in everything.
  They over-analyse all interactions with people and assume others have ulterior motives. Under stress, they psychologically regress to extremist thinking, where the world gets split into the good camp and the bad camp; In their mind, people are divided between tyrants and the abused, the ones who blame and the faulty, the persecutor and the victim.
  The complex trauma of parents who are hysterical, defensive, and paranoid. They cannot regulate their emotions.... Parents with fearful and controlling tendencies are always on edge; they live with a high amount of stress that is always close to boiling over. **Even minor mishaps and injuries can overwhelm them and, when they do, they can break out into a hysterical state, scream, cry, or completely give up on adult responsibilities.** Being a witness to these disturbing situations might have traumatised you when you were young.
  - Do You Have Paranoid and Controlling Parents? Imi Lo, *Psychology Today* (https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/living-emotional-intensity/202005/do-you-have-paranoid-and-controlling-parents), May 19, 2020
- To protect their ego, fearful and controlling parents are defensive and reactive.... they cannot tolerate the shame of seeing their own limits. To defend against their own vulnerabilities, they become extremely

defensive to criticism and blame.
They take conflicts personally, and hardly ever apologize; you almost cannot disagree with them without receiving a forceful backlash....
Whenever they sense they may be losing power, they react forcefully, summoning hostile or passive-aggressive means such as belligerence, verbal violence, threats, unreasonable demands, temper tantrums, and complete withdrawal...
Since they cannot digest their own feelings in a healthy way, they project it onto the outside world and other people...
It is difficult for them to become aware of their own mechanism as they rarely reflect on themselves. They don't look inside, as they fear when they do, they may find overwhelming shame or emptiness.
Even their projections can be unbearable for those around them; they are unlikely to want to seek help from a professional or talk to someone about their true struggles.

- Do You Have Paranoid and Controlling Parents? Imi Lo, *Psychology Today* (https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/living-emotional-intensity/202005/do-you-have-paranoid-and-controlling-parents), May 19, 2020

Parents with fearful and controlling tendencies are always on edge; they live with a high amount of stress that is always close to boiling over. Even minor mishaps and injuries can overwhelm them and, when they do, they can break out into a hysterical state, scream, cry, or completely give up on adult responsibilities. ~ Imi Lo

- "I am sure that this hysteria will fade away and our Western partners will get over it... If they expect... Russia to crawl under the bench and give in to someone's dictatorship, their expectations are wrong," Lavrov said. "In fact, they should remember our history, we have never made agreements under pressure...It's clear to everyone that World War III can only be a nuclear one. However, I would like to point out that thoughts of a nuclear war are circling in the heads of Western politicians but not in the heads of Russians.

- Sergey Lavrov (Russian Foreign Minister), quoted in Russia Thinks West Will 'Get Over' Ukraine War, Calls Response 'Hysteria', Jason Lemon, *Newsweek* (https://www.newsweek.com/russia-thinks-west-will-get-over-ukraine-war-calls-response-hysteria-1684516), March 3, 2022

The complex trauma of parents who are hysterical, defensive, and paranoid... To parents with fearful and controlling tendencies, the world is full of danger. **They... see the worst in everything... cannot regulate their emotions....** ~ Imi Lo (https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/living-emotional-intensity/202005/do-you-have-paranoid-and-controlling-parents)

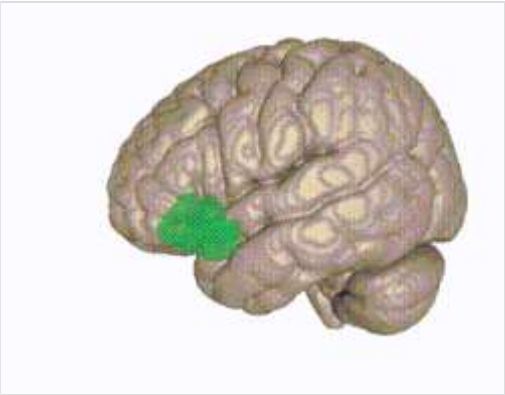
- **Talk of imminent threat to our national security through the application of external force is pure nonsense. Our threat is from the insidious forces working from within which have already so drastically altered the character of our free institutions — those institutions we proudly called the American way of life.**

- Douglas MacArthur, Speech to the Michigan legislature, in Lansing, Michigan (15 May 1952), published in *General MacArthur Speeches and Reports 1908-1964* (2000) by Edward T. Imparato, p. 206

- As we watch the media today, we are spoon fed more and more propaganda and fear of the unknown, [[we're led to believe] that we should be afraid of the unknown and have full faith that our government is keeping us safe from the unknown.
But **by looking at media today, those of us who are old enough will be reminded of the era of Cold War news articles, hysteria of how the Russians would invade and how we should duck and cover under tables in our kitchens for the ensuing nuclear war. Under this mass hysteria all Western governments were convinced that we should join Western allies to fight the unknown evil that lies to the east.**
Later through my travels in Russia during the height of the Cold War with a peace delegation, we were shocked by the poverty of the country, and questioned how we ever were led to believe that Russia was a force to be afraid of. We talked to the Russian students who were dismayed by their absolute poverty and showed anger against NATO for leading their country into an arms race that they could not win.
Many years later, when speaking to young Americans in the US, I was in disbelief about the fear the

students had of Russia and their talk of invasion. This is a good example of how the unknown can cause a deep rooted paranoia when manipulated by the right powers.

- Mairead Maguire, ***Demonization of Russia in a New Cold War Era, Inventing a foe to sell military ambitions is still the most dangerous of games,*** *Common Dreams* (https://www.commondreams.org/views/2018/09/14/demonization-russia-new-cold-war-era) (14 September 2018)



The onset and relapse of hysteria/conversion symptoms may be sudden and dramatic but this is not unique and occurs in other neurological disorders... Many such patients have personality traits that include suggestibility, emotional instability or attention seeking. ~ Edward H. Reynolds]

- All military is expensive, and we can see in Europe that the countries are reluctant to expand their military spending and find it hard to justify this to their people. In looking at this scenario, we can ask ourselves **what is beneficial about this hysteria and fear caused on both sides.** All armies must have an enemy to deem them necessary. An enemy must be created, and the people must be convinced that there is need for action to safeguard the freedom of their country...
  The demonization of Russia is, I believe, one of the most dangerous things that is happening in our world today. The scapegoating of Russia is an inexcusable game that the West is indulging in. It is time for political leaders and each individual to move us back from the brink of catastrophe to begin to build relationships with our Russian brothers and sisters.

  - Mairead Maguire, Demonization of Russia in a New Cold War Era, *CounterPunch* (https://www.commondreams.org/views/2018/09/14/demonization-russia-new-cold-war-era), (17 September 2018)

They display a childlike hysteria, typified by a pouting and demanding attachment to others... the clinical picture is that of functioning like a child... Since he is not a child, there are some functions that are more highly developed. ...but the attitudes and aims remain that of an infant.... ~ ~ Anthony D. Smith

- **It is part of the general pattern of misguided policy that our country is now geared to an arms economy which was bred in an artificially induced psychosis of war hysteria and nurtured upon an incessant propaganda of fear. While such an economy may produce a sense of seeming prosperity for the moment, it rests on an illusionary foundation of complete unreliability and renders among our political leaders almost a greater fear of peace than is their fear of war.**

  - Douglas MacArthur, Speech to the Michigan legislature, in Lansing, Michigan (15 May 1952), published in *General MacArthur Speeches and Reports 1908-1964* (2000) by Edward T. Imparato, p. 206, much of this was used in speeches of 1951, as quoted in *The Twenty-year Revolution from Roosevelt to Eisenhower* (1954) by Chesly Manly, p. 3, and *Total Insecurity : The Myth Of American Omnipotence* (2004) by Carol Brightman, p. 182

- McCarthyism is an overused word, I know. But really, what other word will do to describe the sacking of a conductor for refusing to publicly denounce the leader of Russia? This is the case of Valery Gergiev, who was sacked by the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra this week for failing to condemn Putin.
  Mr Gergiev was literally given an ultimatum. As the *Guardian*'s headline put it: 'Denounce Putin or lose your job: Russian conductor Valery Gergiev given public ultimatum.' Gergiev refused to denounce Putin and so he lost his job. His management team dumped him too, while acknowledging that he is 'the greatest conductor alive and an extraordinary human being with a profound sense of decency'. And yet he likes Putin, and refuses to distance himself from Putin... and thus he must be expelled from the world of classical music. It really does feel like a blacklisting. Gergiev is not only out of the Munich Philharmonic – he has also been dropped by the Vienna Philharmonic, for whom he was due to conduct performances at Carnegie Hall in New York in May. He is 'more or less isolated in the world of classical music', says the Guardian – which is a painfully polite way of saying he has been unpersoned.

A wave of anti-Russian hysteria is sweeping the West. Opposition to the Russian regime... is morphing too often into hostility towards Russian people and Russian things. We need to tone down this Russophobia, and fast.

- Brendan O'Neill, A wave of anti-Russian hysteria is sweeping across the West, *The Spectator* (https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/a-wave-of-anti-russian-hysteria-is-sweeping-across-the-west), 4 March 2022

This founding false narrative... embroidered by a consistent pattern of distorted U.S. reporting as the crisis unfolded... we have seen arguably the most one-sided coverage of a major international crisis in memory... ~ Robert Parry

- This founding false narrative was then embroidered by a consistent pattern of distorted U.S. reporting as the crisis unfolded. Indeed, for the past eight months, we have seen arguably the most one-sided coverage of a major international crisis in memory, although there were other crazed MSM stampedes, such as Iraq's non-existent WMD in 2002-03, Iran's supposed nuclear bomb project for most of the past decade, Libya's "humanitarian crisis" of 2011, and Syria's sarin gas attack in 2013.
  But **the hysteria over Ukraine with U.S. officials and editorialists now trying to rally a NATO military response to Russia's alleged "invasion" of Ukraine raises the prospect of a nuclear confrontation that could end all life on the planet.**
  - Robert Parry: Who's Telling the 'Big Lie' on Ukraine? *Consortium News* (https://consortiumnews.com/2021/12/08/robert-parry-whos-telling-the-big-lie-on-ukraine/), December 8, 2021 (reprint of Who's Telling the 'Big Lie' on Ukraine? by the late Robert Parry (1949 – 2018), Sept. 2, 2014
- In response to threats from NATO that it will be expanding its military capabilities eastward, Russia on Tuesday countered by saying such moves will only result in military recalibrations of its own. Ahead of a NATO summit scheduled for later this week and citing repeated announcements by NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen that a new military "spearhead"— a 4,000-soldier "rapid response" fighting force—would be positioned in eastern Europe, high-ranking Russian officials were pushing back.
  Public Chamber deputy secretary Sergei Ordzhonikidze, told a state news agency that Rasmussen's plans amounted to "military hysteria" and betrayed historic promises. He said Russia's only option would be to respond with "reciprocal measures" of its own. "When NATO troops are approaching our borders, of course, we develop a plan," said Ordzhonikidze. "It is a threat when troops are being stationed next to your border. I recall NATO's commitment not to expand the bloc's territory eastward … All that remains to us is to somehow oppose this expansion of NATO."
  - Jon Queally, NATO's "Military Hysteria" Undermines Hope For Peace In Ukraine, Says Russia,*MintPress News* (https://www.mintpressnews.com/natos-military-hysteria-undermines-hope-peace-ukraine-says-russia/196115/), September 2, 2014
- "There is one very interesting fact," Lavrov said Tuesday during a live TV interview, "that this [NATO] initiative appeared right after the meeting in Minsk where agreements on the process of the Contact Group were trying to find a commonly acceptable decision on the current domestic crisis in Ukraine." Lavrov categorized U.S. statements and Rasmussen's talk of NATO expansion as a conscious effort to undermine fragile peace efforts now underway between the Ukrainian rebels in the east and leaders of the Kiev government. It's quite unfortunate that such moods in strengthening the positions of the 'war party' are actively warmed up and urged on out of Washington and several European capitals, and more and more often out of Brussels and from the NATO Headquarters where the secretary-general of the North Atlantic Alliance with or without reason comes out with announcements that do not fall under his jurisdiction," Lavrov said.
  - Jon Queally, NATO's "Military Hysteria" Undermines Hope For Peace In Ukraine, Says Russia,*MintPress News* (https://www.mintpressnews.com/natos-military-hysteria-undermines-hope-peace-ukraine-says-russia/196115/), September 2, 2014

- **Of course, the onset and relapse of hysteria/conversion symptoms may be sudden and dramatic but this is not unique and occurs in other neurological disorders**. None of this excludes the possibility of changes in nervous system function detectable by imaging or neurophysiological techniques in patients with conversion disorder. Many such patients have personality traits that include suggestibility, emotional instability or attention seeking.
  - Edward H. Reynolds, Hysteria, conversion and functional disorders: a neurological contribution to classification issues, *Cambridge University Press* (https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/the-british-journal-of-psychiatry/article/hysteria-conversion-and-functional-disorders-a-neurological-contribution-to-classification-issues/45FB5FFA5A8223CAA33676E363CE50E5), 02 January 2018

- The ideological propaganda campaigns waged to justify the imperialist wars of the past invariably relied on distortions, fabrications, and outright lies. As the writer Stefan Zweig observed in his recollections of the outbreak of the First World War, "All the warring nations were already in a state of over-excitation and the worst rumor was immediately transformed into truth, the most absurd slander believed."
  So it is that during the week since Putin's invasion of Ukraine, the hysterical anti-Russian campaign spearheaded by the corporate media and sections of the middle class with the aim of legitimizing the US-NATO war drive has assumed horrifying proportions. Singers, artists, conductors, products, and even cats are being excluded or banished solely due to their Russian nationality or origin.
  - The hysterical anti-Russian campaign and the US-NATO drive to war with Russia, Jordan Shilton, *WSWS*, March 5 2022

Alarm is one thing, and hysteria is another. Hysteria impels people to destroy the very thing they are struggling to preserve. ~ Harry S. Truman

- They display a childlike hysteria, typified by a pouting and demanding attachment to others... Vacillation between moments of childlike agreeableness...and being sullen or pouty is typical and frequent....the clinical picture is that of functioning like a child... Since he is not a child, there are some functions that are more highly developed. ...but the attitudes and aims remain that of an infant.... ... high-strung and inclined to express volatile emotions.... the extraverted, exhibitionistic behaviour of the hysterical personality, except that this behavior has a childlike, clinging quality... Imagine a personality with simultaneous arrested development in middle school (histrionic) and the terrible two's (borderline).
  - Why Some Adults May Still Have an Infantile Personality, Anthony D. Smith, *Psychology Today* (https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/and-running/202112/why-some-adults-may-still-have-infantile-personality), December 4, 2021

This moment in time... anywhere you turn people are talking about how bad things are, how terrible it is...everybody is meeting hysteria with more hysteria... ~ Oprah Winfrey

- Of course, there are dangers in religious freedom and freedom of opinion. But to deny these rights is worse than dangerous, it is absolutely fatal to liberty. The external threat to liberty should not drive us into suppressing liberty at home. **Those who want the Government to regulate matters of the mind and spirit are like men who are so afraid of being murdered that they commit suicide to avoid assassination... Alarm is one thing, and hysteria is another. Hysteria impels people to destroy the very thing they are struggling to preserve.**
  - Harry S. Truman, Address at the National Archives dedicating a shrine for the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights (15 December 1952) (https://trumanlibrary.org/calendar/viewpapers.php?pid=2102)

- This moment in time... anywhere you turn people are talking about how bad things are, how terrible it is...everybody is meeting hysteria with more hysteria... and it's getting worse... We're not supposed to match it or even get locked into resisting or pushing against it. We're supposed to see this moment in time for what it is. We're supposed to see through it and then transcend it. That is how you overcome hysteria... how you

overcome the sniping at one another, the trolling, the mean-spirited partisanship on both sides of the aisle, the divisiveness, the injustices, and the out-and-out hatred...
Use this moment to encourage you, to embolden you, and to literally push you into the rising of your life... To borrow a phrase from my beloved mentor Maya Angelou: *Just like moons and like suns, with the certainty of tides, just like hopes springing high, you will rise.*
.. I hope that every one of you contributes to the conversation of our culture and our time. And to some genuine communication, which means, you have to connect to people exactly where they are; not where you are, but where they are. And I hope you shake things up.

- Oprah Winfrey, *Oprah Winfrey's Empowering 2018 USC Commencement Speech, Entrepreneur,* (https://www.entrepreneur.com/article/313386) (14 May 2018)

See also

- 2021–2022 Russo-Ukrainian crisis
- American exceptionalism
- Anti-Russian sentiment
- The Big lie
- Denial
- Emotions
- Facts
- Foreign policy of the United States
- Global catastrophic risk
- Insanity
- Military Indu$trial Complex
- Mutual assured destruction (MAD)
- NATO
- Nuclear war
- Propaganda
- Reality
- Trust
- Tyranny
- World view

External links

Retrieved from "https://en.wikiquote.org/w/index.php?title=Hysteria&oldid=3086182"